

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 28, as follows:**

Referring now to the figures of the drawing, the figures constitute a part of this specification and illustrate exemplary embodiments ~~[[to]]~~ of the invention. It is to be understood that in some instances various aspects of the invention may be shown exaggerated or enlarged to facilitate an understanding of the invention.

**Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 17, as follows:**

The rate of heat release in the engine, needed to avoid knock and undesirable noise, can be controlled by the establishment of substantial temperature gradients in the cylinder. The use of the reformat can generate temperature and/or composition gradients by not-ideal premixing of the air and the plasmatron reformat. By establishing non-uniform distribution of the reformat in the cylinder it is possible to generate conditions that ~~enhanced~~ enhance ignition and control~~[[,]]~~ rate of heat release, knock and noise. Since the initial temperature of the reformat is substantially higher than that of EGR, either higher temperature gradients with the same flow of gas, or equal temperature for smaller flow rates of reformat than EGR, can be established.